



NEWS RELEASE

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State Awards \$1,089,273 in Training Acceleration Grants

INDIANAPOLIS (March 28, 2006) -- The Indiana Department of Workforce Development and Indiana Economic Development Corporation have awarded \$1,089,273 in Training Acceleration Grants to nine Indiana companies.

The Training Acceleration Grant program provides financial assistance to companies and organizations seeking to expand the skills of their existing workforce through training programs that result in industry-recognized credentials. This grant program is one of the state's primary job training programs offered to Indiana businesses.

"The Training Acceleration Grant program helps ensure that the Indiana workforce is globally competitive," said Ron Stiver, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Through these grants, Hoosier workers receive training that better positions them for higher wages and improves the competitiveness of their employers."

"We're especially pleased to see small businesses taking greater advantage of these grant opportunities. Governor Daniels has clearly stated that our training programs need to be more accessible and user-friendly to Indiana's small employers, and we have taken steps to ensure this is the case," said Stiver.

"The Training Acceleration Grant program plays an important role in assisting Hoosier businesses build a more competitive workforce by increasing worker skills and marketability at a time when economic growth and diversification are top priorities," said Michael S. Maurer, Secretary of Commerce and president of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

The program has four core objectives: promoting small businesses; fostering job retention and expansion; increasing personal income for Hoosier workers; and providing training to address skill gaps in the Hoosier workforce.

The names of the firms awarded the grants, location, current employment, number of trainees, and amount awarded:

<u>Employer</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Employment</u>	<u>Trainees</u>	<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AM General	Mishawaka	St. Joseph	700	71	Journey Level Upgrades	\$217,808
Berry Plastics	Evansville	Vanderburgh	1,776	20	Applied Learning certs -Digital Work	\$70,000
Continental Design	Anderson	Madison	12	62	Aerospace machining certs.	\$199,923
Mentzer Printing	Indianapolis	Marion	8	2	Applied Learning certs -Digital Work	\$7,000
Weaver Popcorn	Van Buren	Grant	420	234	CTA	\$198,000
Web-Converting	Indianapolis	Marion	49	49	NIST MEP Adv. Manf. Cert	\$112,653

Ferro Corporation	Plymouth	Marshall	60	60	NIST MEP Adv. Manf. Cert	\$105,500
Alcoa Amendment	Lafayette	Tippecanoe	1,400	6	Journey Level Upgrades	\$6,181
General Motors Corp	Roanoke	Allen	2,903	188	Associates and Journey Level	\$172,208

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with Indiana's 26 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

As a result of legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly in February, 2005, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) replaced the Department of Commerce as the premier entity charged with state economic development. The IEDC has a 12-member board chaired by Governor Mitch Daniels.